

Case 3497***Cyphon palustris* Thomson, 1855 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.5 of the Code, is to conserve the specific name of the widespread Palaearctic marsh beetle *Cyphon palustris* Thomson, 1855 (SCIRTIDAE), published as a junior primary homonym of *Cyphon palustris* Germar, 1818 (currently *Eubria palustris*, PSEPHENIDAE). Both specific names are in current use and have not been considered congeneric after 1899. It is proposed to conserve the name *Cyphon palustris* Thomson, 1855 by ruling it not to be invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Insecta; Coleoptera; SCIRTIDAE; PSEPHENIDAE; *Cyphon*; *Eubria*; *Cyphon palustris*; *Eubria palustris*; marsh beetles; water penny beetles; Palaearctis.

1. Germar (1818, p. 238) established the name *Cyphon palustris* for a species of water penny beetle (currently *Eubria palustris*, PSEPHENIDAE) from Germany ('hiesiger Gegend' [=Halle] and Dresden). In the same publication (p. 239) the new genus *Eubria* was conditionally proposed for this species, and it is available from here (Article 11.5.1 of the Code). The transfer to *Eubria* is also available from here (Article 11.9.3.6). The species has a widespread West-Palaearctic distribution (Jäch et al., 2006). Since its description all other authors consistently placed *C. palustris* Germar in the genus *Eubria* Germar (e.g. Audouin, 1824; Westwood, 1838; Stephens, 1839; Laporte de Castelnau, 1840; Redtenbacher, 1849; Bach, 1852; Kiesenwetter, 1860, 1863; Mulsant & Rey, 1865; Tournier, 1868). This practice was undoubtedly supported by the use of *Eubria palustris* in Dejean's catalogues, at that time serving as the world catalogues of Coleoptera (Dejean, 1821, 1833, 1836). The fact that in these works both the specific and generic names were wrongly attributed to Ziegler is irrelevant here. The only citation of the original combination *Cyphon palustris* that could be traced was by Germar himself (Germar, 1822, pl. 3). The widely accepted placement in *Eubria* is reflected by its treatment in the other major catalogues (Gemminger & Harold, 1869; Reitter, 1906; Pic, 1914; Jäch et al., 2006). A lectotype was designated by Lee & Jäch (1996, p. 40).

2. Thomson (1855, p. 320) used the name *Cyphon palustris* to describe a species of marsh beetle (SCIRTIDAE) from Sweden (Skåne, Arrie). The species has a widespread Palaearctic distribution (Nyholm, 1972). *Cyphon palustris* Thomson was initially treated as a valid species (e.g. Kiesenwetter, 1860; Mulsant & Rey, 1865; Tournier, 1868; Gemminger & Harold, 1869; Redtenbacher, 1874), later as variety or aberration of *C. coarctatus* Paykull, 1799 (e.g. Thomson, 1864; Bourgeois, 1884; Everts,

1903; Reitter, 1911; Pic, 1914; Porta, 1929) or incorrectly as a synonym of *C. coarctatus* (e.g. Fowler, 1890). Nyholm (1955, p. 264) established *C. palustris* Thomson, 1855 to replace *C. coarctatus* auctorum nec Paykull. The oldest available junior synonym of *C. palustris* Thomson, 1855 is *Cyphon fuscicornis* Thomson, 1855 (p. 320) as recognised by Tournier (1868, p. 53) when he synonymised *C. fuscicornis* and *C. coarctatus* auctt. non Paykull (i.e. *C. palustris* Thomson). The synonymy of these two taxa is still considered correct today (e.g. Gemminger & Harold, 1869; Reitter, 1906; Pic, 1914; Nyholm, 1972; Klausnitzer, 2006). A lectotype of *Cyphon palustris* Thomson, 1855 was designated by Nyholm (1972, p. 36).

3. *Cyphon palustris* Thomson, 1855 is a junior primary homonym of *C. palustris* Germar, 1818. Both names are in current use. Since its introduction *C. palustris* Germar has, with one exception (Germar, 1822), consistently been placed in *Eubria*. *Cyphon palustris* Thomson thus meets the requirements of Article 23.9.5 of the Code. Without any further action the name *C. palustris* Thomson for a common and widely distributed Palaearctic species of marsh beetle would be replaced by the long forgotten name *Cyphon fuscicornis* Thomson 1855, which has not been used as valid since the 19th century. This would not be in the interest of nomenclatural stability. A list of 27 references demonstrating the prevailing usage of *C. palustris* Thomson, 1855 is held by the Secretariat.

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to rule that the specific name *palustris* Thomson, 1855, as published in the binomen *Cyphon palustris*, is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *palustris* Germar, 1818, as published in the binomen *Cyphon palustris*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *palustris* Thomson, 1855, as published in the binomen *Cyphon palustris*, with the endorsement that it is not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *Cyphon palustris* Germar, 1818, as ruled in (1) above;
 - (b) *palustris* Germar, 1818, as published in the binomen *Cyphon palustris*.

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Acknowledgement of receipt of this application was published in BZN **66**: 203.

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